

FROM COLUMBIA.

The Free School Bill—Another Salaried Position—The Registrar of Meme Conveyance—Repeal of the Township Act Today—Revenue Seiz.—Railroad Accident, &c.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE NEWS.] COLUMBIA, December 16.

In the Senate, several sections of the bill to establish and maintain a system of free schools passed their second reading. One of these provides for a salary of \$300 per annum to each county school commissioner.

The following bills passed their third reading: To incorporate the Planters' Mining and Manufacturing Company; to make an appropriation for the per diem of the members; to incorporate the Ashley Bridge Company; to amend the act to incorporate the South Carolina Improvement and Drainage Company.

The following received their second reading and were ordered to be engrossed: A bill to provide for the payment of the interest of the stocks and bonds of the State in coin; to authorize the Governor to appoint the physician of the Charleston Jail; to protect persons lawfully in possession of lands and tenements.

A bill to provide for the assessment of personal property in Charleston, was read for the first time.

In the House, the following bills received their second reading: To incorporate the Unity Friendship Society of Charleston; to incorporate the Delaney Rifle Guards; a joint resolution to appoint a fish commissioner; a bill to change the location of Barnwell Courthouse back to Barnwell Village; a joint resolution relative to the exchange of public documents; to recharter Rythe's gas lamp; to extend the limits of the City of Columbia; to grant a lot for a Columbia postoffice.

The Senate bill in relation to the office of Registrar of Meme Conveyance of Charleston, and to fix the tenure of office of W. G. McKinlay, was read the first time.

The bill to better protect the holders of insurance policies was passed, and its title changed to that of an act.

The bill to repeal the Township act was passed and sent to the Senate.

The bill to amend the charter of Spartanburg received its first reading.

Assistant United States Assessor Corwin seized four peddlers' wagons filled with spirits, at Newberry, yesterday evening.

The Governor grants the petition of Charleston citizens to release L. G. Cox from jail.

James Burns was run over by the train at Sumter Sunday afternoon. His body was horribly mutilated. It is supposed he was asleep on the track.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

PERSONAL AMENITIES IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE.

The Abbeville Election Case—Judge Carpenter—Judge Rutland—Receivers—The "Melish"—Rantow's Bridge—Education and Quarantine—The Bondholders' Bill—The Educational Bill—Corbin thinks Vermont a Good Place to Emigrate from—Another Eruption—Attempt to Exclude the Representatives of the News from the House—A Roaring Lion—General Elections.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] COLUMBIA, December 14.

In the Senate, to-day, W. R. Hoyt, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, to which was committed a report made by them, about ten days ago, on the report of the county commissioners for Abbeville County, on an election which was held on the 25th day of May, 1869, to choose a senator for said county, submitted the following report, under the instructions given them by the Senate:

REPORT. Your committee do not deem it necessary to send for further evidence in the case, as the evidence already before your committee is sufficient to enable them to comply with the instructions of the Senate.

According to the testimony of Mr. L. P. Giffin, the poll at Calhoun's Mills was not opened until 8 o'clock, A. M. while section seventh of an act of the General Assembly, approved the 25th day of September, A. D. 1865, requires that the poll should be opened at 6 o'clock, A. M.

Secondly, it is shown by the testimony of the same gentleman that he saw the chairman of the Board of Managers appoint a person on that day to act as manager of elections at the precinct of Calhoun's Mills.

Thirdly, it is shown by the testimony of Mr. L. P. Giffin, that the person registered at the precinct of Child's Cross Roads, but it is not shown whether they were qualified or not under the act of the General Assembly, and that there were no canvassers at that place.

Fourthly, it is shown by the testimony of Mr. Giffin, that he saw the chairman of the Board of Managers appoint a person on that day to act as manager of elections at the precinct of Calhoun's Mills.

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THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

[FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.] WASHINGTON, December 15. Hoar has been nominated Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and Purviance, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee.

North Carolina bondholders are urging Federal interference in North Carolina finances, on the ground that the Federal Government must enforce constitutional provisions adopted under the Reconstruction acts.

Proceedings of Congress. In the Senate Summer presented the petition of the recent colored land convention, praying for a division of the public lands in the South among them.

A resolution was offered authorizing Delano to order rewards for assaults on revenue officers.

Resolutions for adjournment. From the 22d to the 4th of January, Summer said: "We have Georgia, Virginia and the cable connection pressing upon us for consideration." Pomeroy added, "and Cuba"—when Summer replied, "the least said about that the better."

A resolution was introduced for the Committee of Public Safety to take cognizance of steamboat, railway and other disasters.

Carpenter argued against the departure of the Spanish gunboats, maintaining that actual war existed, and that our proper attitude was absolute neutrality. The House adjourned without any action being taken.

The census was discussed up to the hour of adjournment.

NEWS AND GOSSIP BY MAIL.

The New Circuit Judges—A Nice Kettle of Fish. A dispatch of the 12th instant, to the New York Tribune, says:

The trouble regarding the Circuit Judges is denoting, and the present indications are that unless some of their names are withdrawn from the Senate by the President, they will be rejected.

The opposition is mostly confined to the Republican party. The Ohio Circuit Judge, George A. Peck, for the Maryland Circuit, and William McKenna, for the Pennsylvania Circuit, are the only ones who have been named.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS. The question of labor among farmers has assumed a serious character. There never was a time when the energy, patience and faith of the Southern planter have been put to such severe tests.

He is surrounded by a concatenation of circumstances sufficient to mar the hopes of a more sanguine people.

Since the close of the war to the present he has managed, by hook or crook, to command more or less labor, and to render the soil, though, through each year, and the supply decreasing, until finally it has become almost entirely unavailable.

These causes, together with the effect of the recent drought, which was represented by nearly every portion of the State, have reduced the prospects for farm laborers the coming year to still sadder prospects.

Farmer everywhere favor the introduction of the Chinese. No matter what may be their status, whether they be laboring men, or have any other form of servitude, they will be taken care of.

An old gentleman the other day made the prophetic wish that they might land here in less than a month, and that they might never leave here. He afterwards qualified it by adding, "if we could find them."

The South needs more labor to develop her resources and make her more prosperous. It is a palpable fact. The party in power in this State is opposed to any movement which has for its object an increase of labor.

It is not to be expected that the State in getting immigrants here. But, Mr. Editor, cannot this be accomplished, the opposition of Scott and his able subjects notwithstanding?

After each organization has paid its assessed amount, let the balance be turned over to an honest and reliable agent, elected by the different societies, whose duty it shall be to apply the funds to the various needs of the laboring men.

In this way each member would pay proportionately, and by fixing the rate sufficiently high a man would not care to be raised, and every man who becomes a member do so with the determination to vote for as high a rate of percentage on his State tax as his means will permit.

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LATEST LABOR NEWS.

Wages in England and the United States Compared. The following shows the rate of wages received by workmen in the leading pursuits in New York City:

Bricklayers, \$4.50 and \$5 per day; carpenters, \$3.00 and \$4 per day; stone masons, \$4.50 and \$5 per day; plate printers, \$25 and \$30 per week; plasterers, \$4 and \$5 per day; ship painters, \$3.50 for nine hours; varnishers and polishers, \$1.50 to \$2 per week; clothing cutters, \$30 to \$35 per week; gold-beaters, \$12 to \$16 per week; glaziers, 35 cents per hour; longshore lumber-handlers, 40 cents per hour; furniture carriers, \$15 to \$20 per week; watchmakers, \$15 to \$20 per week; horse-shoers, \$21 to \$27 per week; waiters, \$30 per month; cooperers, \$4.50 to \$5 per day.

The following rates of wages, converted into legal tender currency, it is asserted, are paid to mechanics in England:

Plumbers, \$12; helpers, \$6.50; shinglers, \$20; rollers, \$10.50; bricklayers, \$9; plasterers, \$9; carpenters, \$7.20; painters, \$7.40; masons, \$9; plasterers, \$7.40; laborers (graded), \$5.40; laborers (common), \$4.20.